

"An Amazing Woman of God"
Mother Lucille Elizabeth Saunders



Blessed With Life
April 4, 1922

Legacy Began
September 2, 2017

Service Held
September 15, 2017 at 10:00AM
Greater St. John Missionary Baptist Church
1909 Market Street, Oakland, CA

Officiant - Apostle Ross D. Garrison Jr.
Eulogist - Bishop Gregory B. Payton

Interment - Sunset View Cemetery
El Cerrito, CA

"An Amazing Women of God"

Lucille Elizabeth Saunders

Mother Lucille Saunders graced this world with her beautiful green eyes in Baton Rouge, LA to James and Viola Smith on April 4, 1922. She was the 3rd child of four and the only girl. She was raised by her grandmother Rebecca Jackson whom she adored. She received her high school diploma in Louisiana. She accepted Christ at an early age and was baptized in the Mississippi River by Pastor Rowe.

At the age of 17, Mother Saunders married the love of her life Frank Hopkins-Saunders. They migrated to California in 1941. They settled in Los Angeles for a short time before moving to Vallejo then Oakland. After 10 years of marriage she gave birth to her first child followed by six more. Motherhood fit her well. She loved being a housewife, rearing her children, and keeping her home immaculate.

In 1965, her life took a drastic turn with the death of her husband, leaving her with six minors and a baby (Steven) on the way. With this new journey, she decided to move to Berkeley, where she became a longtime resident. She began her career with the Berkeley Unified School District when Steven was 5 years old, where she was employed for over 25 years (without filing out a job application) until her retirement. Throughout her years of services, she worked at Hillside then Oxford Elementary where she kindred great relationships with staff as well as students. Her students would still give her hugs and kisses even after retirement.

Mother Saunders was a natural born caretaker and comedian. She loved telling stories, making people laugh and caring for everyone who came in contact with her. Her door was always opened to everyone especially the neighborhood kids from 63rd & California Street to Julia Street. She was everyone's MOTHER and everyone ADORED her.

Mother Saunders was a member of the Faith Temple Baptist Church under the leadership of Rev. Sylvester Williams for many years. On December 31, 1965, she was invited to St. John Missionary Baptist Church by Ms. Dorretha Arnett and on that rainy night she became a faithful member of the St. John family under the leadership of the Rev. Dr. Carl J. Anderson for 52 years. After the death of Pastor Anderson, she continued to serve under the leadership of Bishop Gregory Payton. Mother Saunders was loved by her Pastor. Under his leadership, she was appointed Vice-President of the Sr. Women, and taught Vacation Bible School. She would always say "Serving the Lord will pay off after while". Mother Saunders was an eloquent speaker and believed in the power of prayer which she instilled in her children. Mother Saunders traveled on many missionary journeys with her church, accompany her pastor and church family to many fellowships.

Mother Lucille Saunders passed away September 2, 2017, at age 95. She was the beloved wife of the late Frank Hopkins-Saunders (1965), together they have seven children Rebekkah Ann, Frank Hopkins Jr. (Angie), Alex James (Donna), Hazel Lynn, Cynthia Marie (Randy), Velma Joyce (Pastor Michael Wallace) and Steven Ray (Tevea). A caring grandma of 18 grandchildren Raegann, LaQuanda, Anisha, Lizette, Alexander, Arrikka, Ahlyanna, Ryan, Randy Jr., Tiendres, Michael, Danielle, Nicholas, Taylor, Shaela, Jason, Lyla, Kaeden, and Sothea. Mother Saunders was thrilled to welcome the next generation with her great-grandchildren Makayla, Kaylah, Jaelin, Khalil, Amelia, Kevin, Lizzie Gabby, Bianca, Connor, and Nylah.

She is survived by six children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, cousin Jeffery Bailey, god-daughter Connie (Mannings) Terrell, her pew-partner/friend Essie Herndon, & her Pastor, Bishop Payton, she was predeceased by her husband Frank Sr., daughter Rebekkah Ann, & grandson Jonathan Christian.

"An Amazing Woman of God" *A Life Well Lived*

Proverbs 31:10

Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is far above rubies.

Program Conductor - Apostle Ross D. Garrison, Jr.

Processional

Ministers & Family

"I Shall Wear a Crown"

Old Testament - Psalm 23

Minister Andrew Hopkins

New Testament - 1 Thessalonians 4:13 - 18

Pastor John Adams

Prayer of Comfort

Pastor Anthony L. Gilmore

Musical Selection - *"Sign My Name"*

Bro. Courtney Newson & The Echoes of Zion

Acknowledgements of Cards & Condolences

Sis. Elaine Jointer

Resolution(s) - Greater St. John M.B.C.

Sis. Artenzilee Lynch

Resolution - Evergreen M.B.C.

Sis. Barbara Simmons

Resolution - Mt. Zion M.B.C.

Sis. Rosalin Smith

Life Journey

Reflect & Read Silently

Special Song of Dedication

Sis. Michelle Owens

Professional & Pastoral Community Reflections

Berkeley Unified School District

Mr. Joe Brulenski

Pastoral Reflections

Pastor Kim Heidelberg

Pastoral Reflections

Landmark Restoration Ministries

Pastoral Reflections

Bishop Frank Pinkard, Jr.

Remarks & Solo

Evergreen Missionary Baptist Church

Liturgical Dance

Bishop Keith Clark

Word Assembly Church

Dr. Fleetwood E. Irving

Moderator - St. John District Association, Inc.

Sister Sherry Hudson, Mt. Zion M.B.C.

Reflections From The Family

Lady Velma J. Wallace - Daughter

Reverend Randy Rowden - Son in Law

Pastor Michael Wallace - Son in Law

Solo - Walk Around Heaven

Sis. Elizabeth Ayala

Expressions or Tributes (Two Minutes Please)

Mother Essie Herndon &

Friends (5 only)

Sermonic Solo

Dr. Hubert Garnett

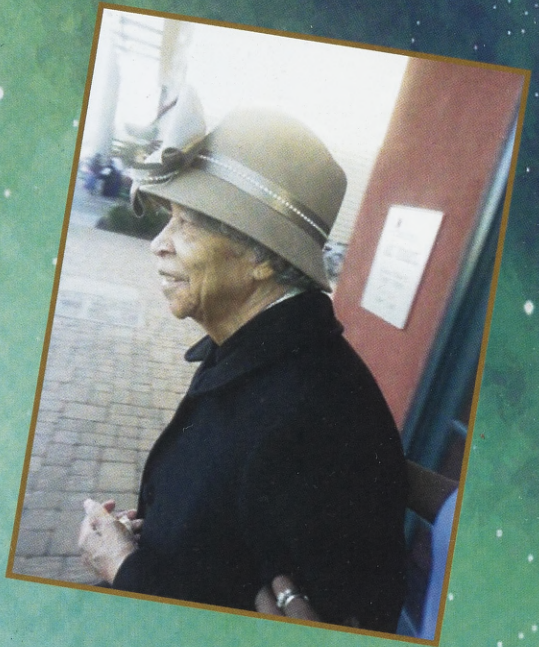
Eulogy

Bishop Gregory B. Payton

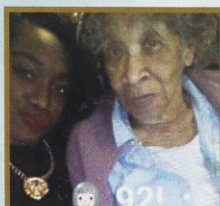
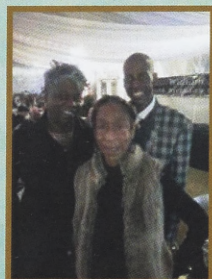
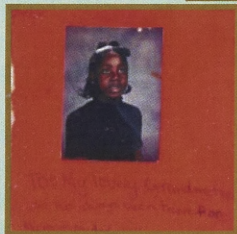
Behold her Beauty

Albert Brown Mortuary Staff in Charge

Recessional







The Bearers of the Bier

**Frank H. Saunders Jr.
Steven Saunders
Nicholas Wallace
Ryan Conner**

**Alex Saunders
Jason Saunders
Michael Rowden
De'Ante Wallace**

The Honorary Bearers of the Bier

**Randy Rowden, Jr.
Paul Franklin**

**Javon Wallace
Alexander Saunders**

**Greater St. John Missionary Baptist Church
Deacon Board**

"A Gift from Mama"

Paint me a picture of what heaven looks like.
Are there fields of marigolds that run eternally?
Are there butterflies dancing throughout the morning sky?
Are the colors of a rainbow vibrant and bright?
I imagine heaven being all the beauty of the world rolled up in one place.
I imagine you singing and laughing with God.
I imagine all of our loved ones gathered together.
Tell daddy I love him. Tell Jon I miss him. Tell Ann I think of her always.
Paint me a picture of what heaven looks like.
Are there sunsets that light up the sky?
Are there birds that sing the loveliest songs?
Are there waves that caress the seashore?
I imagine heaven is a better place because you're there.
I imagine heaven being lit up bright by your smiling face.
I imagine no time in heaven and being lost in every moment.
So please paint me a picture of what heaven looks like.
And send it to me in a dream.
For it may be the very last gift I get from you, mama,
Because tomorrow is never promised.

Penned out of Love by your Babyboi - Steven Ray Saunders

On behalf of the Family of Mother Saunders, we would like to thank everyone for the uncommon kindness. Thank you to Bishop Frank Pinkard Jr. and the Evergreen Missionary Baptist Church, Pastor Michael Wallace and the Mount Zion Missionary Oakland Baptist Church & Bishop Gregory B. Payton and the Greater St. John Missionary Baptist Church for your support in this most difficult time. May God continue to bless and keep you and your entire congregations. Special thanks to Officer J. Fletcher of the San Leandro Police Dept. for being there for our family. Our Father in Heaven is well pleased.

Services Entrusted to Albert Brown Mortuary - Oakland CA

Repast: The repast will be served at the Dr. C.J. Anderson Youth & Tot Center hosted by the Greater St. John Missionary Baptist Church Family after the burial.

"Together Again"

